

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 36.

Accordingly, claims 36-41 remain pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

The Office Action rejects claims 36-41 over Applicant's Prior Art (APA) in view of Hiraishi et al. U.S. Patent 5831708 ("Hiraishi") and Wakai et al. U.S. Patent 5,327,001 ("Wakai").

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims 36-41 are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 36

Among other things, in the TFT substrate of claim 36, first and second signal lines are both covered by the gate insulating layer, and the first and second signal lines are adapted to receive a same gate signal.

As Applicant best understands the Examiner's rejection of claim 36, the Examiner is taking the position that the first and second signal lines are shown in the APA as the two different gate lines G1 and G1 in FIG. 1.

However, the gate lines G1 and G2 of FIG. 1 are not adapted to receive a same gate signal. Indeed, the gate lines G1 and G2 of FIG. 1 receive different gate signals.

This shortcoming of the APA cannot be cured by any modification based on Hiraishi and Wakai as these references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest first and second signal lines that are both covered by the gate insulating layer, and that are adapted to receive a same gate signal.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 36 is patentable over any possible combination of the APA, Hiraishi and Wakai.

Claims 37-41

Claims 37-41 depends from claim 36 and are deemed patentable for at least the

reasons set forth above with respect to claim 36, and for the following additional reasons.

Claim 37

Among other things, in the TFT substrate of claim 37, the pixel electrode overlaps the first and the second signal lines.

Applicants see no such feature in the APA, Hiraishi or Wakai.

Applicants respectfully traverse the statement in the Office Action that the pixel electrode overlapping the recited first and the second signal lines is known in the art. If the Examiner intends to maintain this objection, Applicants respectfully request a citation to a prior art reference including this feature, together with a teaching in the prior art to modify the APA, Hiraishi and Wakai to include such a feature, or an affidavit as required by 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2) if this is based on facts within the Examiner's personal knowledge (see MPEP § 2144.03).

Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 37 is patentable over the prior art.

Claims 38-41

Among other things: in the TFT substrate of claim 38, the drain electrode is extended over the second signal line; the TFT substrate of claim 39 includes a connection portion connected to the second signal line; in the TFT substrate of claim 40, the pixel electrode overlaps the connection portion; and in the TFT substrate of claim 41, the wherein the connection portion overlaps the third signal line.

Applicants see no mention of these features in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner either point to something in APA, Hiraishi or Wakai that discloses such features, or else allow Applicants' claims.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 36-41, and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283-0720 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 15 July 2005

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